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# A Rebuke to Harrington

Despite private advice from the parliamentarian's office that the House Ethics Committee lacks jurisdiction in a case looking toward a possible rebuke of Massachusetts Rep. Michael Harrington, a liberal Democrat who has led attacks on the Central Intelligence Agency, the Ethics Committee is expected to meet next week to consider the case.

The move against Harrington, an outspoken CIA critic particularly in the Chile affair, has been hatching for almost a year, the result of smoldering resentment over what some Armed Services Committee members say privately was Harrington's violation of a signed secrecy pledge.

Harrington signed the pledge on June 4, 1974, as a condition for obtaining access to secret testimony given to the Armed Services subcommittee on CIA oversight by CIA director William Colby on the agency's activities in domestic Chilean politics before and during the Allende regime.

The secrecy pledge signed by Harrington was as follows: "The contents of such classified information (Colby's testimony) will not be divulged to any unauthorized person in any way, form, shape or manner."

Angered over what he regarded as congressional apathy in the CIA-Chile affair, Harrington subsequently informed the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs Committees, as well as other congressmen, members of his own staff and one highly reputable reporter, that Colby's testimony contained political dynamite. The general trust of Colby's testimony was given by Harrington at least to the two committee chairmen, and possibly others.

Harrington admitted as much to the Armed Services Committee last Sept. 12 after the CIA's activities in Chile were exposed by The New York Times. He was called on the carpet by then-committee chairman, Rep. Edward Hebert of Louisiana, who suspected Harrington himself as the leak for The Times expose.

Denying he was the leak, Harrington was excused by the Armed Services Committee after his Sept. 12 interrogation and the matter appeared closed. But on May 25, Harrington read former CIA Latin America chief David A. Phillips' defense of the agency in a signed article in the New York Times. Phillips wrote that it was a "myth" that the CIA "encouraged the Chilean plotters who toppled President Salvador Allende-Gossens and funded the strikes leading to the coup" against Marxist Allende.

Angered once again, Harrington wrote a circular letter to House colleagues suggesting that they do what he did last June: obtain access to Colby's still-secret testimony to the Armed Services CIA oversight committee. He also asked for access himself to other classified committee documents.

That letter triggered the disciplinary action by the committee. It voted unanimously on Tuesday (with 13 of 40 members present) to deny Harrington access to any more classified material at least until the House Ethics Committee (officially the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct) examines the whole question of access to a committee's secret testimony by non-committee members—a direct rebuke to Harrington.

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President Ford's as-yet unannounced presidential campaign committee in the home state of former Gov. Ronald Reagan will include at least two of Reagan's long-time aides and political advisers, including state Republican Chairman Paul Haerle.

Hearle and state Attorney General Evelle Younger, the state's top Republican officeholder, will be co-chairmen of the Ford campaign committee, with Anita Wentner Ashcraft, vice chairman of Reagan's 1970 re-election finance committee, to take over as active head of the Ford California campaign later this year.

For Mr. Ford, the quiet acquisition of Haerle and Anita Ashcraft is a major coup, establishing his political clout and proving that Reagan, a possible contender against the President for the 1976 nomination, does not own his own state.

Haerle was an all-out conservative backer of Sen. Barry Goldwater's presidental nomination in 1964. Northern California chairman for Reagan's first gubernatorial campaign in 1966, Haerle became his personal appointments secretary for the next three years. More recently, Haerle has been out of the inner Reagan circle—but all his past Republican credentials are with the former governor.

With David Packard, board chairman of Hewlitt-Packard, as national finance chairman for the Ford campaign, White House operatives feel the President has made more solid progress in California than any other state. Top coordinator for the state is Mr. Ford's close personal friend, Leon Parma, vice president of San Diego-based Teledyne Corp. and one-time administrative assistant of conservative Rep. Bob Wilson of California.

A footnote: Haerle has been criticized for his imminent move to the Ford camp on grounds that the Republican state chairman should be neutral. But Haerle won't change his mind.

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